



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JAMAICAN MAN SENTENCED FOR COCAINE CHARGES

TUCSON, Ariz. – Carlton Wright, 40, born in Jamaica but a lawful permanent resident of the U.S. and a resident of Chicago, was sentenced today in Tucson federal court to 151 months in prison, to be followed by 60 months of supervised release, by U.S. District Judge John M. Roll. Wright was found guilty by a jury on December 20, 2004 of Conspiracy to Possess With Intent to Distribute Five Kilograms or More of Cocaine and Possession With Intent to Distribute Five Kilograms or More of Cocaine. Judge Roll ordered that Wright's sentence run concurrently on both counts.

The evidence at trial showed that the defendant recruited two females from the Chicago area, 19 and 21 years old, to assist him in smuggling 10 kilograms of cocaine from Arizona to Chicago. On October 25, 2003, the defendant and the two females flew from Chicago to Phoenix, where Wright purchased the cocaine. The trio then stayed at a local resort until October 27, 2003, when they boarded an Amtrak train at the Maricopa station.

The train made its scheduled stop in Tucson, Ariz. where DEA and other task force agents boarded the train and looked for signs of narcotic smuggling with the assistance of a canine. Agents focused on two pieces of luggage in the passenger compartment near the defendant and the two females. A subsequent search of those bags revealed a total of 10 cellophane-wrapped packages which tested 88% pure for cocaine and weighed 10 kilograms. The estimated wholesale value of the cocaine was over \$200,000.

The two co-defendants each pleaded guilty to one count of Conspiracy to Possess With Intent to Distribute Five Kilograms or More of Cocaine and are pending sentencing.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the DEA and task force agents from the Pima County Sheriff's Office, the South Tucson Police Dept. and the Oro Valley Police Dept. The prosecution was handled by Judson T. Mihok, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

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